

CHROMODORIS CALIFORNIENSIS BERGH, 1879 (MAY):
PROPOSED CONSERVATION OVER *CHROMODORIS GLAUCA*
BERGH, 1879 (MARCH) (MOLLUSCA: GASTROPODA).
Z.N.(S.) 2253

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The CHROMODORIDINAE are a group of tropical and warm-temperate nudibranch mollusks. Species of the genera *Chromodoris* and *Hypselodoris* account for the majority of the named taxa in this subfamily. Both because of the size of the group and a plethora of synonyms, there is still a fair amount of taxonomic dispute over the identity of various species.

2. By contrast, the species occurring along the Pacific coast of America have been carefully studied, with only three species that have been doubtful. These three have been shown to be subjective synonyms of other, well-known species (Bertsch, 1977, 1978a and 1978b). *Chromodoris aegialia* Bergh, 1904, is a synonym of *Hypselodoris agassizii* (Bergh, 1894); the 1894 species has been in current usage. *Chromodoris banksi* Farmer, 1963, is a synonym of *Chromolaichma dalli* (Bergh, 1879 b). This synonymisation has a relatively minor effect on stability; although the name *banksi* has been used often in the modern literature (including the original description, it has appeared on 12 occasions, in works by 8 different authors), *dalli* has not been a forgotten name (between 1879 and 1926, the name occurred in 10 publications by 4 different authors; since 1960, 8 occasions by 8 different authors). Article 79 (b) of the 1972 Code borders on being applicable to this situation, but because the difference in usage of the names *dalli* and *banksi* is so marginal, we feel that the Law of Priority must be followed. The synonymization of *Chromodoris glauca* Bergh, 1879 a, with *Hypselodoris californiensis* (Bergh, 1879 b) presents a major upset of general usage if the Law of Priority were to be invoked.

3. The name *californiensis* has appeared in the literature numerous times in combination with the genera *Hypselodoris*, *Chromodoris* (original designation), and *Glossodoris* (the modern understanding of these genera is based on Odhner, 1957). Between 1879 and 1927, 8 authors used *californiensis* on 16 occasions (Bergh himself accounts for 9 uses). Since 1927, at least 29 authors have used the name *californiensis* in 36 different publications,

including major monographs, textbooks, and reference books. A selection of these works includes:

1. Smith, A. G., and M. Gordon. 1948. *Proc. Calif. Acad. Sci.*, 4th ser., vol. 26: 180.
2. Lance, J. R. 1961. *Veliger*, vol. 4: 66.
3. Paine, R. T. 1963. *Veliger*, vol. 6: 4, 8.
4. MacFarland, F. M. 1966. *Mem. Calif. Acad. Sci.* vol. 6: 157-162; pls. 24 and 34.
5. Sphon, G. G., and J. R. Lance. 1968. *Proc. Calif. Acad. Sci.*, 4th ser., vol. 36: 79.
6. Ricketts, E. F., J. Calvin, and J. Hedgpeth. 1968. *Between Pacific Tides*: 119, 514.
7. Keen, A. M. 1971. *Sea Shells of Tropical West America*: 823; pl. XX.
8. McBeth, J. W. 1971. *Veliger*, vol. 14: 158.
9. Bertsch, H., A. J. Ferreira, W. M. Farmer, and T. L. Hayes. 1973. *Veliger*, vol. 15: 287.
10. McDonald, G. R., in: R. I. Smith and J. T. Carlton. 1975. *Light's Manual: Intertidal Invertebrates of the Central California Coast*: 528, 540.

4. Since its establishment, *glauca* has appeared rarely in the literature. Bergh based the original description on two undissected, preserved specimens then, but now no longer, present in the Zoologisches Museum, Berlin (Dr. R. Kiliass, *in litt.*, 11 May 1971). Between 1879 and 1905, Bergh included the name in various lists, but without reference to any additional specimens. There have been only 4 other uses of *glauca* since 1905. One reference does not occur in the primary literature *sensu stricto*, and the others are simply listings as a synonym or a possible synonym.

4 a. Pruvot-Fol (1951: 106) included the taxon in her list, with a synopsis of Bergh's description, stating that "cette espèce devra probablement être assimilée à l'une des *Glossodoris* bleues de Californie."

4 b. Russell (1971: 76, 131) listed the name *glauca* in his bibliography of nudibranch literature.

4 c. Bertsch (1976: 158) simply listed *Chromodoris glauca* as a junior synonym of *Hypselodoris californiensis*. Burn (1978) demonstrated that the publication of *glauca* actually occurred one and a half months prior to *californiensis*. The name *glauca*, therefore, has priority.

5. To replace *californiensis* with the forgotten name *glauca* would seriously affect a well-established general usage. Because of the disuse of the senior synonym, Bertsch (1977: 114) suggested that *Chromodoris glauca* be relegated to the synonymy of

Hypselodoris californiensis as a *nomen oblitum*. We have considered two alternative requests to the Commission: one for the suppression of *Chromodoris glauca* under the provisions of Articles 23a–b and 79b; the other for the grant of nomenclatural precedence over *C. glauca* to *Hypselodoris californiensis*. Having regard to the fact that the syntypes of *C. glauca* were never dissected and have anyway disappeared, we see no useful purpose in artificially maintaining that name for possible use as a valid name and accordingly ask for its suppression.

6. We therefore request the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature:

- (1) to use its plenary powers to suppress the specific name *glauca* Bergh, 1879, as published in the binomen *Chromodoris glauca*, for the purposes of the Law of Priority but not for those of the Law of Homonymy;
- (2) to place the specific name *californiensis* Bergh, 1879, as published in the binomen *Chromodoris californiensis*, on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology;
- (3) to place the specific name *glauca* Bergh, 1879, as published in the binomen *Chromodoris glauca*, and as suppressed under the plenary powers in (1) above, on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology.

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